

Claims

1. A baler having a bale forming chamber with first and second upright frame sections, the second frame section movable relative to the first frame section for releasing a formed bale from the chamber, linkage structure connecting the first and second frame sections including a control linkage having an upper link connecting an upper portion of the first frame section with an upper portion of the second frame section, a second link pivotally connected between first and second frame sections at a location below the upper link, and cylinder structure connected between the frame sections and rocking the second frame section relative to the first frame section between a closed position for forming a bale and an open position for releasing the bale, wherein in the closed position, the upper portions of the frame sections generally abut, and wherein the upper link moves the second frame section over the upper portion of the first frame section as the cylinder rocks the second frame member towards the open position.

2. The baler as set forth in claim 1 further including a latch member connected to the second frame section and securing the second frame section to the first frame section in the closed position, wherein the operation of the cylinder structure with the frame sections in the closed position initially moves the first frame section to release the latch member without need for a separate unlatching mechanism.

3. The baler as set forth in claim 2 wherein operation of the cylinder structure moving the frame sections to the closed position secures the latch member without need for a separate latching mechanism.

4. The baler as set forth in claim 2 wherein control linkage includes pivot structure facilitating limited vertical movement of the second frame section relative to the first frame section as the cylinder structure is operated.

5. The baler as set forth in claim 1 wherein, in the closed position, the upper link is generally horizontal and the second link is upright.

6. The baler as set forth in claim 5 wherein the upper link has an effective length less than that of the lower link.

7. The baler as set forth in claim 1 including a harvester frame, and wherein

the first frame section is pivotally connected to the harvester frame for rocking between an upright operating position and a lowered transport position.

8. The baler as set forth in claim 7 including a bale handler located adjacent the second frame section and wherein the second frame section and the bale handler include engaging structure for supporting the second frame section from the bale handler.

9. The baler as set forth in claim 1 wherein the cylinder structure is connected to a central portion of the second link.

10. The baler as set forth in claim 9 wherein the cylinder structure includes a cylinder having a distal end connected to the central portion and a proximate end pivotally connected to the first frame section.

11. A baler having a bale forming chamber with first and second upright frame sections, the second frame section movable relative to the first frame section for releasing a formed bale from the chamber, linkage structure connecting the first and second frame sections including an upper portion of the first frame section with an upper portion of the second frame section, and cylinder structure connected between the frame sections for rocking the second frame section relative to the first frame section between a closed position for forming a bale and an open position for releasing the bale, wherein in the closed position the frame sections generally abut, a latch member connected to the second frame section and securing the second frame section to the first frame section in the closed position, wherein the operation of the cylinder structure with the frame sections in the closed position initially moves the first frame section to release the latch member without need for a separate unlatching mechanism.

12. The baler as set forth in claim 11 wherein the latch member comprises a hook, the hook movable with operation of the cylinder structure into and out of engagement with the first frame section.

13. The baler as set forth in claim 11 wherein the linkage structure includes a vertically movable pivot responsive to operation of the cylinder structure for facilitating movement of the second frame section vertically relative to the first frame section to release the latch member and facilitate rocking motion of the second

frame section relative to the first frame section.

14. A baler for a framed cotton harvester for making cotton modules on board the harvester, the baler including a bale forming chamber with first and second frame sections, the second frame section movable relative to the first frame section for releasing a formed bale from the chamber, linkage structure connecting the first and second frame sections including upper and lower links connecting an upper portion of the first frame section with an upper portion of the second frame section, and cylinder structure connected to the frame sections for rocking the second frame section relative to the first frame section between a closed position for forming a bale and an open position for releasing the bale and for moving the sections to a lowered transport position, wherein the upper and lower links move the second frame section over the upper portion of the first frame section as the cylinder structure rocks the second frame member towards the open position.

15. The baler as set forth in claim 14 further including a bale handler movably supported from the harvester frame adjacent the chamber and receiving the released bale, the bale handler movable from an upright position to a lowered bale release position and including a frame section support member, the second frame section including a mating member for receipt by the frame section support member when the bale handler is in the upright position, and motor structure connected to the bale handler for moving the handler between the upright and lowered positions.

16. The baler as set forth in claim 15 wherein the motor structure moves the first and second frame sections toward a transport position after the frame section support member has received the mating member, the cylinder structure including a hydraulic cylinder connected to the bale chamber and having a float mode, the cylinder being in the float mode as the frame sections are moved by the motor structure.

17. The baler as set forth in claim 16 wherein the first frame member is pivotally connected to the frame and the first frame member is pivoted downwardly as the motor structure moves the frame sections towards the transport position.

18. The baler as set forth in claim 14 wherein the second frame section is movable along a path which intersects with the bale handler to provide a stop for the

second frame section, wherein the second frame section defines a baler gate and the bale handler defines a cradle, and the baler gate is placed into the cradle for support in a transport position, and wherein the second frame section is offset over the upper portion of the first frame section to reduce transport height in the transport position.

19. The baler as set forth in claim 14 including a latch member connected to the second frame section and securing the second frame section to the first frame section in the closed position, wherein the operation of the cylinder structure with the frame sections in the closed position initially moves the first frame section to release the latch member without need for a separate unlatching mechanism.

20. The baler as set forth in claim 15 including reloadable bale wrap mechanism supported on the second frame section, wherein the motor structure moves the second frame section to a lowered position to facilitate reloading of the wrap mechanism.